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Message Text

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21
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 (ISO) W
---------- 115683
R 081400Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7301
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 0427

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, YE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

REF: SANA 353

SUMMARY: ALONG WITH SHAYKHS NOTED IN REFTEL, AT LEAST 12 MILITARY OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND OTHER TRIBAL FIGURES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH LUHUMIST CRITICISM OF HAMDI REGIME.

1. ACCORDING JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, SOME 20 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOLLOWING MEETINGS WHICH HAMDI AL-SABRI HELD TO CONSIDER POLITICAL COVENANT OF MUHSIN AL-AYNI.

2. ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, BOTH MUHAMMAD AND DIRHAM ABU LUHUM, FORMER MILITARY WHEEL HORSES IN YAR WHO HAVE BEEN IN EXILE POSTS ABROAD RECENTLY, RETURNED TO YEMEN WITH AL-AYNI MANIFESTO AND UP-DATED COMMENTS FROM FORMER PRIME MINISTER. THEY CONTACTED FIVE LIEUTENANT COLONELS (TOP RANK IN YAR) MAJOR AND FOUR CAPTAIN, PLUS SOME OTHER RANKS, FROM MP'S, INFANTRY, ARMORED
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CARS, AIR FORCE AND ARTILLERY PLUS NUMBER OF TRIBES-

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MEN FROM ARHAB AND KHAULAN.

3. ONE PERISITENT RUMOR, WHICH WE NOT RPT NOT ABLE TO TRACK DOWN, IS THAT IRAQIS PROVIDED EITHER FUNDING OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS GROUP. IF SO, WE WOULD BE PUZZLED ALTHOUGH BY RELIABLE REPORT IRAQIS HAVE LONG PROVIDED AL-AYNI WITH LARGE PERSONAL STIPEND.

4. SINAN ABU LUHUM IS STILL IN HIS COUNTRY HOME OF NAHM. MUHAMMAD AND DIRHAM HAVE BEEN ABRUPTLY DEPORTED TO CAIRO ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. WE ASSUME AL-AYNI IS STILL IN CAIRO BUT THAT DIRHAM WON'T BE MILATT THERE ANYMORE.

COMMENT: HAMDI PRESUMABLY ACTED TO CHECK WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE REAL CONSPIRACY, BECAUSE HIS NORMAL POLICY IS TO "LET DOGS BARK", AS HUSSAIN HUBAYSHI PUT IT. THIS IS POLICY OF CONFIDENT MAN BUT, AT SAME TIME THIS "PLOT" IS EVIDENCE OF PRESSURE HAMDI MUST FEEL TO SATISFY HIS MILITARY WITH NEW ARMS, OTHER BENEFITS. WE ALSO THINK IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AND MOUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB, WHO ARE STAYING HOME THESE DAYS, HAVE NOT BEEN CONNECTED IN ANY REPORTS WITH LUHUMIST CONNIVINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE.
RANSOM UNQUOTE RANSOM

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